ZUNA INSTITUTE
4660 Natomas Blvd. Suite 120-181
Sacramento, CA 95835

Zuna Institute Presents:

NBLC

THE NATIONAL BLACK LESBIAN CONFERENCE

Taking Charge: Health, Community, Family

April 7- 10, 2005
Dallas , Texas

PROGRAM

Best wishes to
Zuna Institute
on their
Third Annual
National Black Lesbian Conference

THE BLACK AIDS INSTITUTE

www.BlackAIDS.org

Our People. Our Problem. Our Solution.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Francine Ramsey

Welcome to Zuna Institute's Third National Black Lesbian Conference. The conference has multiple purposes, although convening Black lesbians nationally to create a platform for future advocacy is our primary purpose. We realize the gathering of Black lesbians is a political statement in itself. And we must use this time to share best practices to support the grassroots efforts to organize in rural and urban cities across the country.

The planning team created a program that will touch on all parts of our lives. Our Theme "Taking Charge; Health, Community, Family " envelops how Black lesbians must take the power of change into their own hands. We must take the lead in making sure our families have rights, our communities have strong leadership and resources, and that we are healthy enough to sustain the resistance. The Conference will have workshops and forums that convey knowledge, and tools to help the participants achieve their goals. As a community we must use our collective strength to combat the negative forces, which say, we are not equal and equality is not for everyone.

The conference comes at a time with great anticipation, and loss. In California, AB 205 The Domestic Partner and Responsibilities Act became law in January 2005.The state of Massachusetts approved the right for same-sex couples to marry. On the wake of this hope, we are left with the tragic memory of a powerful, dynamic Black Lesbian activist, Wanda Alston. We lost her last month to a tragic and senseless murder. She was the Director of Mayor Anthony Williams' Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, & Transgender Affairs, in Washington DC. In this position she fought tirelessly for the rights and equality for the LGBT community.

In Wanda Alston's memory we are dedicating the 2005 NBLC in her honor.

Thanks to our sponsors, National Center For Lesbian Rights, National Black Justice Coalition, Human Rights Campaign, Abbott Laboratories, Black AIDS Institute, and all the organizations that contributed to the success of this conference

Francine Ramsey
President
Co-Founder

Zuna Institute Board Members

Francine Ramsey
Joi Rhone
Cynthia Walston
Wendy Herndon
Karman Jarvis
Donna Payne

FACT SHEET

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

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HISTORY

In 1999, Zuna Institute was born at the kitchen table of sistahs who believe that the black lesbian community can benefit from a national presence. The discussion focused on creating an organization that would advocate on behalf of black lesbian's on a national level. While it is apparent that Black Lesbians across the country are doing the grassroots work to improve the quality of our lives, Zuna want's to build on this work by creating an organization that would advocate our position on issues on a national level. The founders also want to bridge the gap between geographically dispersed organizations and communities to provide a vehicle where we can join forces to become a more visible national community.

MISSION

Zuna Institute is a National Advocacy Organization for Black Lesbians that was created to address the needs of black lesbians in the areas of Health, Public Policy, Economic Development, and Education.

PURPOSE

Zuna Institute is a not for profit national advocacy organization for Black Lesbians. Its focus is the economic development, education, public policy support, and improved health of its constituents. Through community organizing, training, and networking Zuna institute will focus on eliminating barriers that black lesbian's face within the black community based on sexual orientation and in the LGBT community based on race. Zuna Institute will also host a bi-annual national conference where black lesbians come together to address the issues of our communities and organizations.

VISION

The Vision for Zuna Institute is to call upon our national collective wisdom, strength and courage to improve the quality of Black Lesbians lives, by eliminating barriers that we face on a daily basis. These barriers are deeply rooted in public policies that encourage homophobia, economic and educational injustices, and all other forms of discrimination.

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Eddie Bernice Johnson
Congress of the United States
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March 22, 2005

National Black Lesbian Conference (NBLC)
c/o: Felicia Y. Miller
Co-Chair, NBLC
5512 Tribune Way
Plano, TX 75094

Greetings NBLC:

On behalf of the 30th U.S. Congressional District of Texas, it is with great pleasure that I extend warm greetings to the Zuna Institute as it hosts the 3rd National Black Lesbian Conference in our great city of Dallas, Texas on April 7-10, 2005.

Since its founding, the Zuna Institute has been one of the premier organizations working to protect the rights of African American lesbian women. Serving members throughout the United States, the Zuna Institute has established a legacy of support and advocacy that has grown to be one of the most highly recognized and respected in America.

We welcome this national conference to our city in the spirit of friendship, fellowship, and the mutual exchange of knowledge and information. I invite you to enjoy a heaping serving of our Texas culture, our Texas life-style, and our Texas hospitality.

Again, I extend my warmest greetings to the Zuna Institute as it hosts the National Black Lesbian Conference in our great city. It is my hope that this special event will be a meaningful educational and networking opportunity for all who will gather for this special occasion.

Sincerely,

Eddie Bernice Johnson

Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress

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Vallerie Wagner . . . . . Conference Coordinator

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A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF WANDA ALSTON

By Vallerie D. Wagner

How do you say goodbye to someone who you've known for nearly 20 years, whose life was such a testament to the things that we should all strive for and whose untimely death in such a horribly violent and senseless manner leaves you numb and speechless? I am overcome with both a tremendous sense of loss and rage and can't quite seem to catch my breath.

Wanda Alston was more than a dedicated, hard working community activist who fought tirelessly for the equality of the LGBT communities, the rights of women and youth, she was my comrade and my sister in the struggle. But most importantly, she was my friend.

I don't really remember the first time I met her, but I do remember that we became fast friends on that first meeting. Wanda and I didn't talk on a

regular basis, but whenever we did, it was as if no time had passed.

I will never forget attending the 4th International Women's Conference in Beijing, China. Wanda was responsible for making sure that I was a part of the National Organization for Women's contingent to the US/China Joint Conference on Women which was being held the week before the International Conference. And of course, since we were going to already BE in China, we couldn't pass up the opportunity to register and attend the NGO Forum on Women in Hairou, China. What an amazing, life-changing 2-week experience; from walking the streets of Hairou as part of an international Lesbian protest march, to walking into a workshop on 'Affirmative Action in the US' and being asked on the spot to facilitate, to hanging out in the karaoke clubs, to visiting all of the tourist sights, to shopping, to eating Chinese food everyday and finally making a mad dash to the Hard Rock Café and McDonalds - and of course, being typical tourists taking lots of pictures and meeting scores of people.

The last time I saw Wanda was at my commitment ceremony in June 2003. When I called her to tell her the news, she responded in very typical Wanda fashion, but then after her ribbings - and unbeknownst to me at the time, she and her partner Stacey made plans to attend. The next call I got from Wanda was requesting information on the hotel where our guests were staying. Initially I was surprised, but, that was just her style. Wanda was one of those friends who you might not maintain constant contact with, but when something important happened (or if you needed her) - she was there! I can't begin to find the words to say goodbye to my friend. And why should I...?

I find it even harder to find the words to express my rage at the thought of her last minutes of life. To be in at home, she and Stacey's place of warmth and safety, and have someone invade that sanctity and force her into a fight for her life. Wanda was a fighter, but it's hard to imagine how frightened and alone she must have felt. Not to mention the unthinkable horror that Stacey must have felt when she found Wanda on the floor of their home. I can only hope that Wanda didn't suffer long. But I don't want to focus on how Wanda died; I would much rather remember how she lived! She lived life to the fullest...

To my friend I can only say that you are terribly missed; your zest for life and tremendous contributions to the struggles of the disenfranchised will not be forgotten. To the coward who ripped such a strong black lesbian and a genuinely good human being from our midst, I can only hope that your captures will be kinder to you than you were to my friend.

Wanda, I love you and may you rest in peace! I know that you'll continue to fight for the marginalized and I'll see you again!

Your friend and sister in the Struggle!

NATIONAL BLACK JUSTICE COALITION

FAIRNESS FOR OUR FAMILIES

NBJC

The nation's premier advocates for Black, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender civil rights.

www.nbjcoalition.org

KAREN WILLIAMS

Curve Magazine calls Karen Williams "...a laugh riot!" The *Sydney Morning Herald* proclaims that Karen Williams is "ferociously funny, with perfect pace, timing and structure."

Known for her quick repartee, insightful commentary and audience rapport, Williams is a comic craftmaster, a gifted actor, a multitalented writer, and an inspirational lecturer. Armed with her "healing and humor" philosophy, Karen is a modern-day alchemist, whose audiences appreciate her cathartic laughter, and whose peers consider her a comic's comic!

Currently, Karen Williams stars in a new commedy documentary "Laughing Matters," produced by AllOut Films, available on DVD. A favorite at films fests this award winning feature film showcases Karen's star quality while intriguing interviews showcase her human rights activism.

As a solo entertainer. Karen Williams delights SRO audiences from San Francisco to South Beach to Sydney. Karen is a featured comic in the hilarious internationally-acclaimed film, "We're Funny That Way," shown regularly on HBO, as well as a nominee for the 1999 GLAMA award for the irreverent commedy CD, "human beings: what a concept" (Uproar Records).

Television host Jon Stewart intorduced Karen as "Professor Williams" at the Just For Laughs Commedy Festival Gala in Montreal, as her credits included teaching a Senior Seminar in Stand-Up Comedy at Cleveland State University (JFL demo tape available).

BANQUET KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Banquet Keynote Speaker: Courtney Snowden

Courtney R. Snowden, an associate at the Raben Group, LLC, enjoys a wealth of political and legislative experience on issues ranging from civil rights to education.

Prior to joining the Raben Group, LLC, Ms. Snowden served as a lobbyist for the National PTA, directing their advocacy efforts on a variety of legislative issues including budget and appropriations, vouchers, and No Child Left Behind. During her tenure at National PTA, she chaired the National Coalition for Public Education (NCPE), a coalition comprised of more than fifty education, civic, civil rights, and religious organizations devoted to defeating state and federal efforts to create publicly funded private school voucher programs and tuition tax credits.

Before working for National PTA, Ms. Snowden served as the Federal Policy Manager for the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) where she developed proactive strategies to raise awareness among members of Congress and the public on the detrimental impact of bullying and harassment based on sexual orientation and gender identity in our nations' schools.

Ms. Snowden began her career in the office of Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin where she was responsible for advising the Congresswoman on an array of legislative issues including animal rights, small business, labor, and Native American and women's issues. Following her tenure in Congresswoman Baldwin's Office, Ms. Snowden worked in the political department at the Human Rights Campaign (HRC).

In addition to her lobbying and legislative experience, Ms. Snowden has worked on numerous congressional and ballot initiative campaigns. She most recently worked in Michigan to defeat the state's anti-gay marriage amendment. Although the campaign was unsuccessful, Ms. Snowden built powerful and important alliances which helped to educate both gay and straight Detroiters about the detrimental impact of this amendment.

Ms. Snowden earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Beloit College in Beloit, Wisconsin.

SPEAKER

Speaker: Jasmyne Cannick

A frequent presence on television and radio, Jasmyne Cannick has appeared on numerous media programs, including Black Entertainment Television News, the Tavis Smiley Show, Fox News and the Bev Smith Show. She has also been featured or quoted in articles in the Associated Press, New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Washington Post, St. Petersburg Times, Africana.com, Eurweb.com and Bet.com. Cannick at 27, is the Public Relations Director for the Black AIDS Institute, a member of the National Association of Black Journalists, a board member of the National Black Justice Coalition the nation's only Black gay and lesbian civil rights organization and co-producer of MTV Logo's Noah's Arc, America's First Black Gay Series. She writes monthly syndicated commentaries carried by both the Black press and gay press highlighting issues and concerns that are often overlooked or ignored. She lives in Los Angeles with her partner and can be reached via her website at www.jasmynecannick.com.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Gospel Brunch Keynote Speaker: Yvette Flunder
Senior Pastor, City of Refuge United Church of Christ
Presiding Bishop, Refuge Ministries/Fellowship 2000

Rev. Flunder founded the City of Refuge Community Church UCC in 1991 in order to unite a gospel ministry with a social ministry. City of Refuge is a thriving inner-city congregation that celebrates the radically inclusive love of Jesus Christ. Preaching a message of action, the church has experienced steady numerical and spiritual growth and is now located in the south of Market area of San Francisco at 1025 Howard Street.

A native San Franciscan, Rev. Flunder is a third generation preacher with roots in the Church of God in Christ. She was licensed in the COGIC and later ordained by the Bishop Walter Hawkins of Love Center Ministries where she served as Associate Pastor and administrator for the Oakland-based Love Center Church. In June 2003 Rev. Flunder was consecrated Presiding Bishop of Refuge Ministries/Fellowship 2000 a multi-denominational fellowship of primarily African American Christian leaders and laity representing churches and faith-based organizations from all parts of the country.

Responding to the needs of the AIDS epidemic, Rev. Flunder and her staff opened Hazard-Ashley House and Walker House in Oakland and Restoration House in San Francisco through the Ark of Refuge, Inc., a non-profit agency whose purpose is to provide housing, direct services, education and training for persons affected by HIV/AIDS in the Bay Area, throughout the USA and in three countries in Africa. Restoration House is a dual-diagnosis residential facility for African-American women and the first of its kind in San Francisco. Walker House is licensed by the State of California as a Critical Care Facility. Ark House provides transitional housing for homeless youth. The Ark provides HIV/AIDS education and prevention services targeting the African American and African faith community. The Ark recently opened, in collaboration with AIDS Healthcare Foundation, the Magic Johnson Clinic to provide primary medical care services. The Ark also provides substance abuse intervention programs and several programs designed to support inner-city youth.

SPEAKER

Speaker: Doris G. Deckard

Doris is a native Texan. She's married with one son and currently resides in Dallas Texas. Doris is a Real Estate Consultant and holds a certification in Information Word Processing.

Active in the GLBT community, Doris enjoys service. She has received many awards for her community outreach and volunteer ministries. Her current ministry outreach is the Sand Branch Community water drive.

As a Lay Minister, one of Doris' passions is bringing souls closer to God and to help re-evaluate their relationship with Him. Doris is an active member of local church. Her favorite quote is "God helps those who help themselves".

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

DATE / ACTIVITY	TIME	LOCATION	PRESENTERS
Thursday - April 7, 2005			
Registration	5pm - 7pm	Lincoln East Foyer	
Hospitality Suite	5pm - 10pm	Atrium 1	
Vendors - The Village	5pm - 10pm	Washington/Adams/Jackson	
Reception	6pm - 8pm	Atrium 1	
Friday - April 8, 2005			
Vendors - The Village	9am - 5pm	Washington/Adams/Jackson	
Hospitality Suite	9am - midnight	Atrium 1	
Film Festival	9am - midnight	Atrium 1	
Continental Breakfast	8am - 9am	Lincoln East Foyer	
Registration	9am - 5pm	Lincoln East Foyer	
Opening Plenary Welcome from Dallas Herstorical Perspective Keynote address	9am - 10:30am	Lincoln East	
Economic Panel	***10:45am - 12pm***	***Lincoln East***	***Dr. Gabrie'l J. Atchinson, Moderator Zandra R. Conway Jamiliah Gaines Nakia Roberson***
Lunch "On Your Own"	12pm - 1pm		
Workshop Session 1	1:15pm - 2:30pm		
I'm A Lesbian, So What?		Lincoln East #1	Angela R. Harvey
$1,000-$1,000,000: Wealth - Building for Sistahs		Lincoln East #2	Lisa Powell
Dealing with Difference - Exploring Cultural Heritage		Lincoln East #3	Karen Williams
Sexuality & Religion: Who Has Stolen My Jesus?		Hamilton	Bishop Yvette Flunder
Lesbians Practice Safer Sex Too		Madison	Antoinette Barnes
Health Panel	***2:45pm - 4pm***	***Lincoln East***	***Amari Sokoya Pearson-Fields, Moderator Monica M. Tunstle Garrett Angela R. Harvey Dr. E. Michelle Morgan***
Evening Activities			
Literary Café	4:15pm - 5:30pm	Atrium 1	
Welcome Reception	6pm - 7:30pm	Reflections	
Comedy/Spoken Word Showcase	9:30pm - 11pm	Reflections	
Saturday - April 9, 2005			
Vendors - The Village	9am - 5pm	Washington/Adams/Jackson	
Hospitality Suite	9am - 12:00 am	Atrium 1	
Film Festival	9am - midnight	Atrium 1	
Continental Breakfast	8am - 9am	Lincoln East Foyer	
Registration	9am - 5pm	Lincoln East Foyer	

DATE / ACTIVITY	TIME	LOCATION	PRESENTERS
Political Panel	***9am - 10:30am***	***Lincoln East***	***Donna Payne, Moderator Samilya Bashir Jasmyne Cannick Shameka Lloyd Courtney Snowden***
Queer Power Dynamics	9am - 10:30am	Lincoln East #1	Onetta Brooks
Living Well	9am - 10:30am	Hamilton	Venus Reese
Workshop Session 2	10:45am - 12:15pm		
Media 101 Workshop		Lincoln East #1	Jasmyne Cannick
Journey to Truth: The S.H.E. Experience		Lincoln East #2	Gwen Thomas
Holistic Healing - Power of our personal Energy for healing		Lincoln East #3	Amikaeyla Proudfoot Gaston
How to Turn $1 into $150,000 worth of Real Estate		Hamilton	Jamiliah Gaines
Economic Empowerment		Madison	Dr. Gabrie'l J. Atchison
Lunch "On Your Own"	12:30pm - 1:30pm		
Organization Panel	***1:45pm - 3:15pm***	***Lincoln East***	***Zandra R. Conway, Moderator Judah Dorrington Darlene Hudson Lisa Powell Beverly Tilery***
In The Spirit - Black Lesbian Health	1:45pm - 3:15pm	Lincoln East #1	Amari Soloya Pearson-Fields
Spirituality Panel	***3:30pm - 4:45pm***	***Lincoln East***	***Bishop Yvette Flunder, Moderator Imani Evans Onetta Brooks Doris G. Deckard Gwen Thomas***
The "M" Word - Freedom To Marry	3:30pm - 4:45pm	Lincoln East #1	Samiya Bashir Lisa Powell Sylvia Rhue
Banquet	***6pm - 9pm***	***Lincoln East (including 1, 2, & 3)***	
Courtney Snowden, Keynote Speaker			
Live Auction	9:30pm - 10pm		
Party	10pm - 2am	Lincoln East (including 1, 2, & 3)	
Sunday - April 10, 2005			
Exhibit teardown	9am - 12pm	Washington/Adams/Jackson	
Gospel Brunch	10am - 1pm	Lincoln East (including 1, 2, & 3)	
Musical selection			
Bishop Yvette Flunder, Keynote Speaker			
Closing Remarks			
Feedback Session			

WORKSHOPS SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

JOURNEY TO TRUTH: THE S.H.E. EXPERIENCE

Many women deny their sexuality, and struggle with being honest with themselves and their loved ones about who they are. This course has practical supportive strategies for coming out to friends and family-- especially children and teenagers. The course also confronts the reality of women who are "on the down low."

I'M A LESBIAN, SO WHAT?

An interactive workshop that addresses the underline issue most lesbians face: coming out, staying out and being proud about it. This workshop will help women to identify the underline issues we take on when we continue to "not be true to ourselves" about who we are. Remaining "in the closet" to friends, family, coworkers, and even strangers causes us internal damage and problems in our relationships, our friendships, with our health and most importantly our emotional well being. This workshop will put a positive spin on being a lesbian and will give some insight to women on what we can do to be more respectful and accepting of self so that others will accept and respect us as well.

$1,000-$1,000,000: WEALTH-BUILDING FOR SISTAHS

This workshop will show you the simple steps which, if diligently followed, will guarantee you financial freedom. Join the growing circle of women who, since Lisa's first financial freedom workshop in 1994, are on their way to financial independence.

DEALING WITH DIFFERENCE - EXPLORING CULTURAL HERITAGE

This workshop is designed to deal with some of the barriers imposed by race, gender, class, sexual orientation, ability, and cultural differences. Discussions will focus on the use of humor to raise sensitivity issues, and to generate creativity towards positive and affirming action in our daily lives. With its accent on leadership training, this session will empower participants to promote harmony, to appreciate differences, to embrace similarities, and to provide guidance and direction in our respective environments.

SEXUALITY & RELIGION: WHO HAS STOLEN MY JESUS?

Understanding what the Radically Inclusive Love of Jesus Christ really means. Let's take our Jesus back from the fundamentalists. How to develop a safe place and find love within the church.

QUEER POWER DYNAMICS

The patriarchal model has been a part of many cultures and Christianity since its inception. One definition of patriarchy is "power over", i.e., men having power over women. In many cultures, gay and straight people have been socialized under this model. We will explore the impact of this model on the GLBTQI community as men and women attempt to interact as "equals."

MEDIA 101 WORKSHOP

Learn how to develop and promote a media campaign that will influence, shape and change public opinion and promote your issue, business or organization.

A broad range of media skills, from the basics of strategizing your own media plan, to improving your media skills, to monitoring your local media will be discussed.

HOW TO TURN $1 INTO $150,000 WORTH OF REAL ESTATE

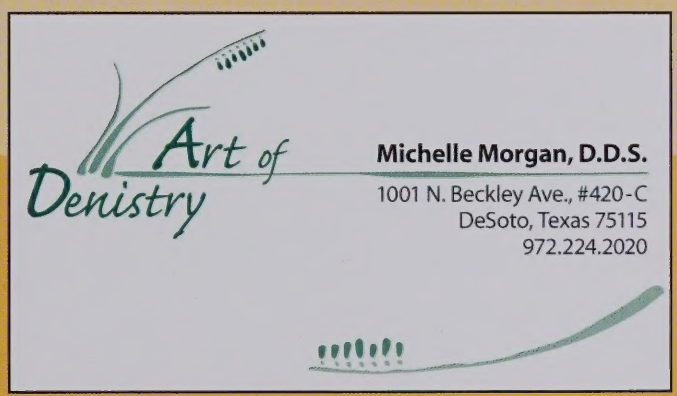
An opportunity to work with a successful real estate investor, motivational speaker, and mentor to many, nationwide. She will share her principles of success which propelled her to a life of peace, prosperity, and living her dreams.

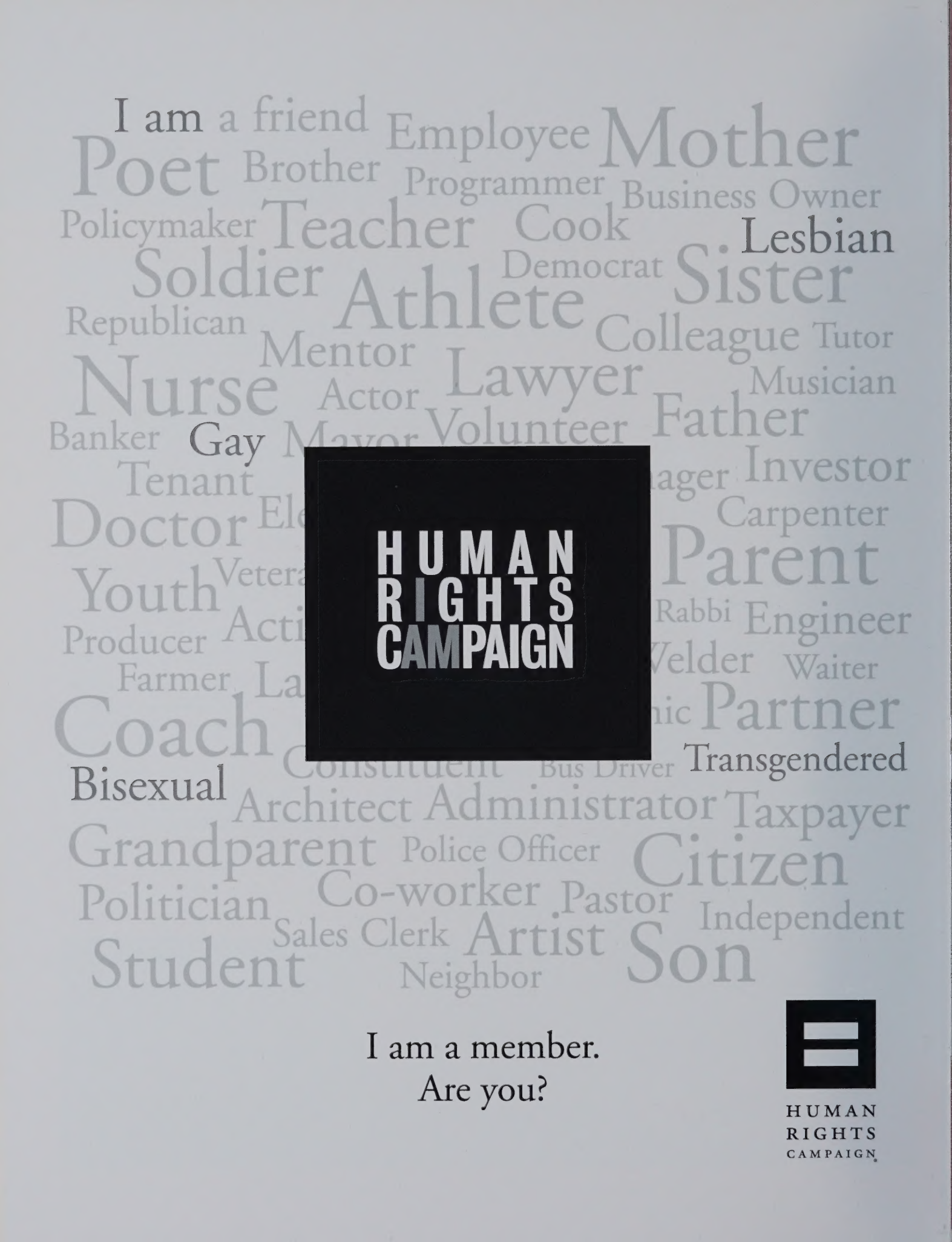
THE "M" WORD - FREEDOM TO MARRY

Can we talk? No, can we really talk? From CNN, to the courthouse, to the front page, to living rooms across the nation, same-sex marriage has become the front and center issue. So, where do we as black lesbians stand? Is marriage a right we intend to fight for? And just how are the Bush Administration, The Black Church and Big Money involved? Join us for a down-n-dirty, nitty-gritty discussion on marriage equality and the price black lesbians will pay if we are silent on this issue.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

We will spend the first hour of the workshop addressing the topics discussed in the panel discussion: including but not limited to real estate, starting and funding a small business, and marketing. The remaining time will be devoted to defining our own goals and definitions of economic success. We will end with a Visioning exercise.




I am a friend
Employee
Mother
Poet
Brother
Programmer
Business Owner
Policymaker
Teacher
Cook
Lesbian
Soldier
Democrat
Sister
Athlete
Republican
Colleague
Tutor
Mentor
Nurse
Lawyer
Musician
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Politician
Co-worker
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Independent
Sales Clerk
Artist
Son
Student
Neighbor
HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN
I am a member.
Are you?
HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

GLSEN

Creating Safe Schools for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People

respect

The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) Proudly Supports the 3rd Annual Black Lesbian Conference for Empowering Future Advocacy

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at Cathedral of Hope
&
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Congratulate
The Zuna Institute on 6 years
of serving the Black Lesbian

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Sharhonda Martin and Tamara Brooks
Proudly Welcome the Zuna Institute and National Black Lesbian Conference to Dallas, TX

April 7 - 10, 2005

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Women of Distinction
www.dallasfamily.org
(214) 540-4493

The Women of Distinction (a.k.a.), "The Family" is a non-profit organization founded in 1996 by a group of close friends. The organization consists of African American professional women who are committed to providing a networking and social forum for not only African American women but other nationalities in a non-business type atmosphere.

Our Mission
The Women of Distinction (a.k.a.), "The Family" was created to provide social and cultural enrichment, coupled with educational and support services for the Dallas community.

Calendar of Events

MLK Celebration 2/27 -2/28
Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Walk, April 2
NBLC Conference, April 7th - 10th
Casino Trip to Shreveport, LA, April 23rd
SPLASH in Houston, Texas, May 6th - 8th
Memorial Day Party, May 28th - 29th
Juneteenth Celebration, June 18th
"Getcha Game On", June 25th
All White Party/Fashion Show, July 2nd
Nassau Bahamas, July 29th - Aug 2nd
Annual Labor Day Celebration, Sept 3rd
Dallas Black Pride, (TBD)
70's "Ole School" Party, Nov 19th
New Years Eve Celebration, Dec. 31st

A portion of our proceeds from each event is donated to women and kids shelters in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area.

NIA

NIA Collective
18th Annual Gathering

Stimulate Your Mind,
Body & Spirit

A Unique Weekend Experience
Exclusively
For
Lesbians of African Descent

For information: www.niacollective.org

NIA Collective
P.O. Box 10863
Oakland, CA. 94610-0863
510-869-4403

March 27, 2005

Francine Ramsey, Executive Director
Zuna Institute
4660 Natomas Blvd 120-181
Sacramento, CA 95835

Greetings to all:

On behalf of the Zuna Institute's 2005 National Black Lesbian Conference Dallas Host Committee, it is with much pride and great excitement that we welcome you to Dallas, Texas and to the 3rd National Black Lesbian Conference (NBLC) on April 7-10, 2005.

We want to acknowledge all the diligent, hardworking and determined volunteers locally and from across the country who worked faithfully over the last year to prepare for the conference. Without their support, tireless efforts and their commitment to the empowerment of the Black Lesbian sisterhood, there would be no conference.

To all our conference supporters, donors, collaborators and dignitaries, we humbly express our deepest gratitude. Their contributions in support of the conference, its purpose and its attendees demonstrate your steadfast commitment to our community.

To the conference attendees, we appreciate your support in coming to the conference from every corner of the country. We congratulate you for taking this opportunity to dialogue, mix, mingle, laugh, cry and contemplate change. It is our hope that when each of us departs this conference, we walk away inspired to make positive and substantive changes in not only our individual lives, but also in the lives of the people in our own communities.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge Francine Ramsey, the board members of the Zuna Institute and Women of Distinction for partnering to bring this soul-stirring, historical event to Dallas, Texas. After the conference, the Black Lesbian community in Dallas will be forever changed.

It was truly our pleasure to serve as your conference co-chairs for the Zuna Institute's 2005 National Black Lesbian Conference. As a result of our service, our lives will be forever transformed and we anticipate that you will have a similar experience.

Sincerely,

Michelle Carter, NBLC Co-Chair & Founding Member, Women of Distinction
Felicia Y. Miller, NBLC Co-Chair & Board of Governor, Human Rights Campaign

ULOAH

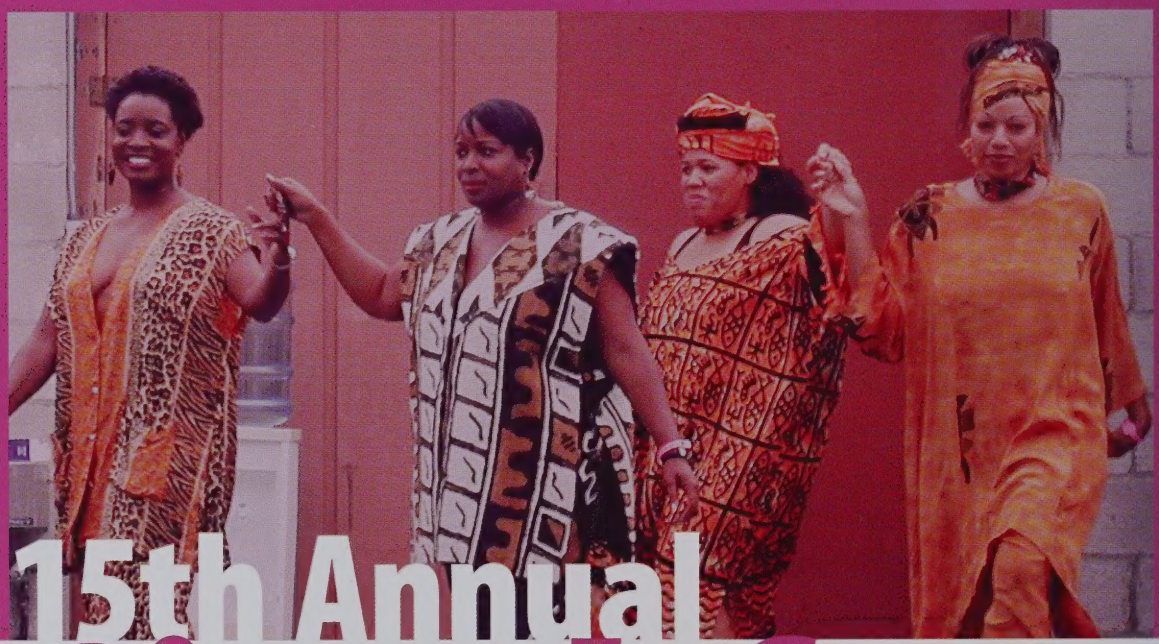
Hundreds of Black Women in the Woods!

Hundreds of Black Lesbians on the Land!

Every fall Sistahs come from all over the country, and from distant cities around the world, to create Sistahfest, our own black lesbian retreat. Just miles up the Los Angeles coast we gather to transform the 120 private, wooded acres, just steps from the beach, into our own vibrant and nurturing SistahSpace. Nestled away in nature's canyon, we discover our true common ground.

We create a new world for the weekend! Don't miss 4 days of provocative workshops, dozens of performances, a film festival, dances, vendors, entertainment and wall-to-wall women! Early-bird registration (postmarked by May 31st) is $199 and includes lodging, 9 delicious meals and all Sistahfest activities! Registration is $199-$350 depending on time of payment and lodging choice. Layaway plan available. (New!) Beautiful, full-color brochure available.

1626 N. Wilcox Ave. #190
Los Angeles, California 90028
ULOAH@aol.com ■ www. uloah.com
ULOAHline: 323-960-5051



15th Annual Sistahfest

SEPTEMBER 22-25, 2005

United Lesbians of African Heritage

Making the world safe for black lesbians.

Abbott Laboratories

Quality Healthcare Worldwide

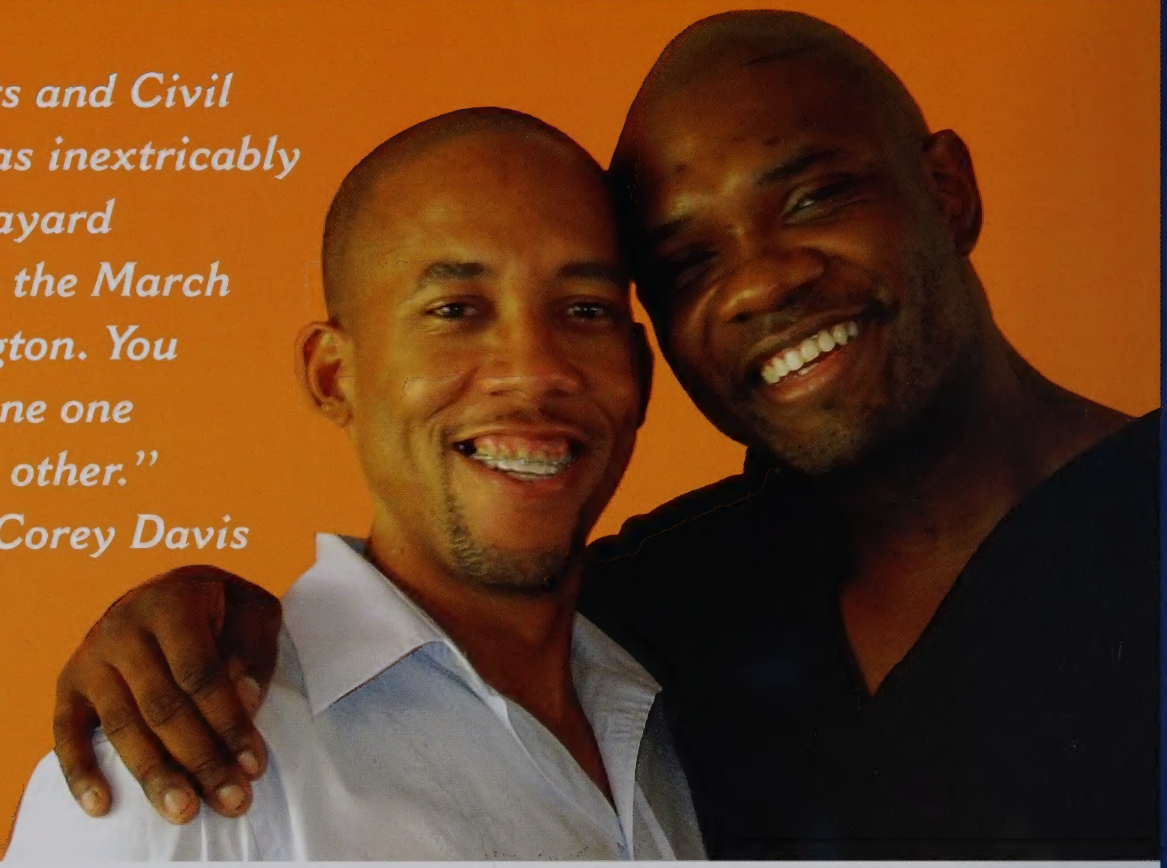
Thank you
Abbott Laboratories
For All Your Support!

PEDIATRICS • MEN'S HEALTH • WOMEN'S HEALTH
ONCOLOGY/CANCER • DIABETES • HIV • RESPIRATORY INFECTION
PAIN MANAGEMENT • IMMUNOLOGY/RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

ZUNA
Institute

"Gay Rights and Civil Rights are as inextricably linked as Bayard Rustin is to the March on Washington. You can't imagine one without the other."

— Corey Davis



Andre Lejeune and his partner Corey Davis joined 11 other same-sex couples to boldly challenge the State of California for the right to marry. NCLR is representing these couples in *Woo v. Lockyer*, a landmark lawsuit seeking to overturn California's discriminatory marriage laws.

NCLR

National Center for Lesbian Rights

Celebrating 28 years of legal advocacy on behalf of the LGBT community.

We fight for your freedom to:

- **Create the family you choose**
- **Receive spousal benefits at work**
- **Be free from discrimination and oppression**

Help us win the fight! Become an NCLR member.

Contact us for free advice. Hablamos español.

(415) 392-6257 ■ INFO@NCLRIGHTS.ORG ■ WWW.NCLRIGHTS.ORG

Health

Social Justice

ZUNA Institute

National Advocacy Organization for Black Lesbians

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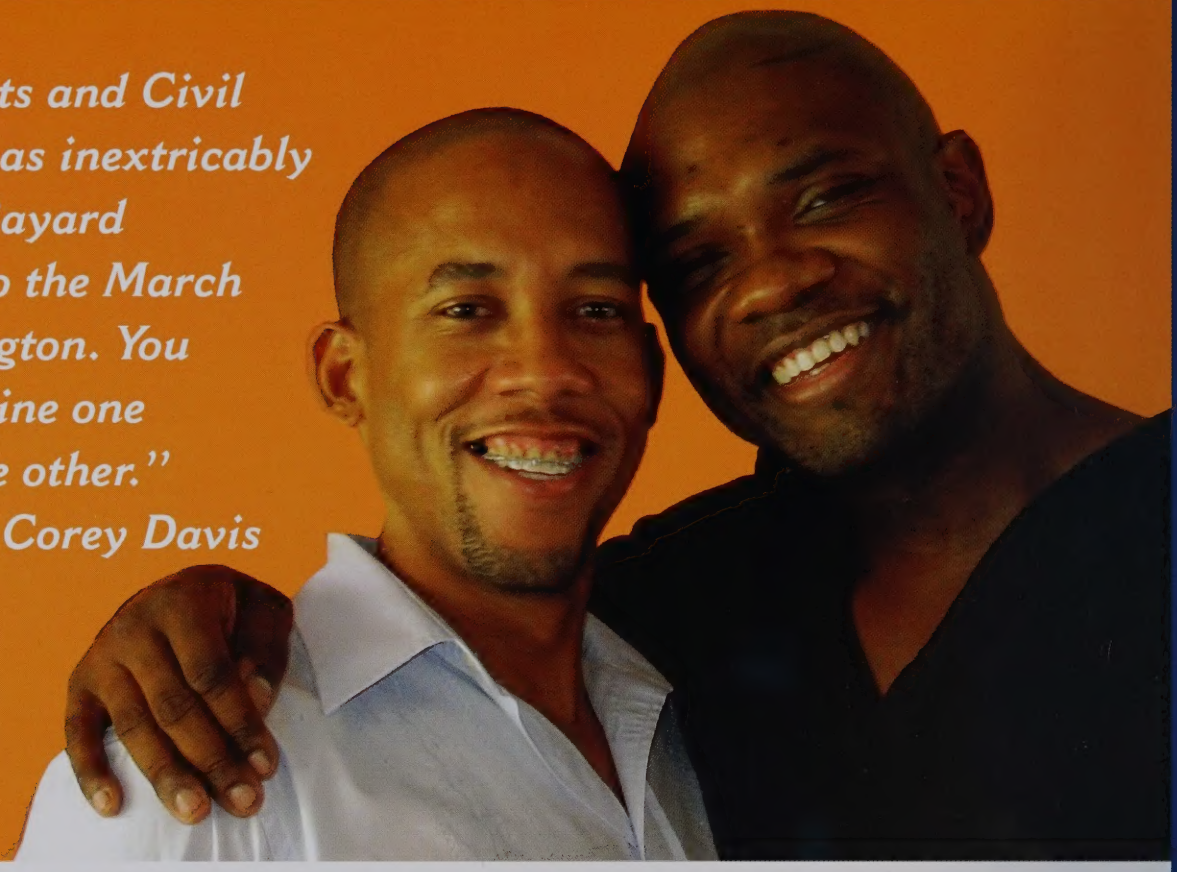

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Make a commitment to yourself and your community by becoming a member of Zuna Institute. By being a member, you will support an organization that advocates to counter the effect of the disproportionate impact of social discrimination and stigma on Black Lesbians.

Please mail to Zuna Institute with your tax-deductible yearly membership payment.

NAME

PARTNER

ADDRESS

APT/SUITE

CITY

STATE ZIPCODE

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

- ☐ $15 - Student
- ☐ $25 - Individual
- ☐ $40 - Family
- ☐ $100 - Advocate
- ☐ $100 - Leadership Circle
- ☐ $250 - Activist Circle
- ☐ $500 - Advisory Circle
- ☐ $1000 - President Circle*

*President's Circle receive special benefits including complimentary tickets to the NBLC.

My check payable to Zuna Institute is enclosed
Please charge my ___Visa____MC___Amex

Name on card_____

Card Number_____

Exp. Date_____

About Zuna Institute

Founded in 1999 and headquarters in Sacramento, California. Zuna Institute is a national advocacy organization for Black lesbians that addresses such issues as health, economic development, public policy, and education. Zuna Institute brings about visiblity and empowerment to the Black Lesbian community, and strives to eliminate barriers that are deeply rooted in public policies that encourage homophobia, economic and educational injustices, and other forms of social discrimination.

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Our Projects

- National Community Forums
- Healthy Families, Healthy Lives
- National Black Lesbian Conference

Support our projects by volunteering a few hours a month. If interested, email volunteer@zunainstitute.org

Who We Are

The oldest national Black LGBT organization with its primary mission to provide education and resources to the Black Lesbian community.

The first national Black lesbian organization to conduct a needs assessment on issues and concerns of Black Lesbians.

The first national organization to convene a conference for Black Lesbians in over 10 years. Our inaugural conference was held in Atlanta, GA, in 2001.

Why We Exist

Through community organizing, training, and networking Zuna institute will focus on eliminating barriers that black lesbian's face within the black community based on sexual orientation and in the LGBT community based on race

Define ourselves, define our families, and be honest with our children

Promote and ensure the physical, spiritual and economic health and wellness of Black lesbians.

Raise awareness and bring visibility to the Black Lesbian community.

ONE STOP SHOP FOR RESOURCES AND INFORMATION

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National
Lesbian Conference

Office: 1649 McLendon NE, Atlanta, GA 30307
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1999, Decatur, GA 30031
(404) 373-0000

ATTENTION LESBIANS

The National Lesbian Conference is calling on the entire Lesbian community to insure diversity and representation of all Lesbians. We are ready, willing, and able to accomplish this. We invite you to participate. Are you ready?

READY — Many gay men are ready to support Lesbian issues. Let gay men know that we welcome their support and encourage them to donate to the conference. We are calling this effort, "Brothers For Sisters".

WILLING — If every Lesbian in the U.S. sent one dollar to the conference - A Dollar A Dyke - the entire budget would be met for the next three years. Send your dollar today! P.O. Box 1999.

ABLE — Are you interested and able to develop local fundraising events on behald of the NLC? If so, please request the NLC Organizing Kit from the national office in Atlanta. Call (404) 373-0000.

WISHING — Do you have anything you wish to get rid of? We wish we could have it. We need:

* a copier
* lamps
* air cleaner
* file cabinets
* computers
* FAX
* desks & chairs
* accessible vans
* heater
* cups & hooks
* stationary
* office suppiles...

TIME, TALENT, ENERGY - If you have these three things, and a sense of humor, we invite you to come volunteer in Atlanta. We need:

* typists/computer literates
* office coverage
* Spanish & ASL interpreters
* mail sorters
* filers & organizers
* handydykes

UNITING OUR SPIRITS

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The light of the chandelier was lost to the gleam of their eyes. The women - thousands of women - filled the Great Hall. The multitude of colors that swirled through the room would have shamed the vainest rainbow. Their clothing was of every hue and texture. Their skin tones were of teak and honey and pearl. Their eyed ranged from the black of a velvet night to the twany brown of a hawk's wing to the palest blue of a morning sky. The walls quivered with the buzz and murmur of spoken conversations, while signers' hands broke the air like fluttering birds.

The matriarchs had come from every corner. The council to be held here would effect all of their lives, all of their tribes' lives. The time was short, and the task before them formidable. Rabid wolves were at the door.

For years, the tribes had quarreled and bickered among themselves while their enemies had cursed and threatened their mother-loving souls. The predators had run alone, or in small packs, and the women had scoffed at them. Now, those murderous fools were forming into frenzied mobs. If they coalesced before the daughters of the matriachy marshalled their collective force, much woould be lost. Much had already been lost. The time to act was now.

And so, the Great Hall was filled...

Did this happen in centuries past? Perhaps. Will it happen again? It will - in Atlanta in April - with your help...

National Lesbian Conference

•• ATLANTA, GA.••

april 24••28, 1991

•DIVERSITY•SOLIDARITY•EMPOWERMENT•

The NLC is committed to fighting racism and other forms of oppression. NLC is committed to accessibility for all lesbians with disabilities. Scented products make some lesbians ill. Please refrain from wearing such products at all NLC sponsored events.

National
Lesbian Conference

Office: 1649 McLendon NE, Atlanta, GA 30307
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1999, Decatur, GA 30031
(404) 373-0000

ATTENTION LESBIANS

The National Lesbian Conference is calling on the entire Lesbian community to insure diversity and representation of all Lesbians. We are ready, willing, and able to accomplish this. We invite you to participate. Are you ready?

READY — Many gay men are ready to support Lesbian issues. Let gay men know that we welcome their support and encourage them to donate to the conference. We are calling this effort, "Brothers For Sisters".

WILLING — If every Lesbian in the U.S. sent one dollar to the conference - A Dollar A Dyke - the entire budget would be met for the next three years. Send your dollar today! P.O. Box 1999.

ABLE — Are you interested and able to develop local fundraising events on behald of the NLC? If so, please request the NLC Organizing Kit from the national office in Atlanta. Call (404) 373-0000.

WISHING — Do you have anything you wish to get rid of? We wish we could have it. We need:

* a copier	* computers	* heater
* lamps	* FAX	* cups & hooks
* air cleaner	* desks & chairs	* stationary
* file cabinets	* accessible vans	* office suppiles...

TIME, TALENT, ENERGY - If you have these three things, and a sense of humor, we invite you to come volunteer in Atlanta. We need:

* typists/computer literates	* mail sorters
* office coverage	* filers & organizers
* Spanish & ASL interpreters	* handydykes

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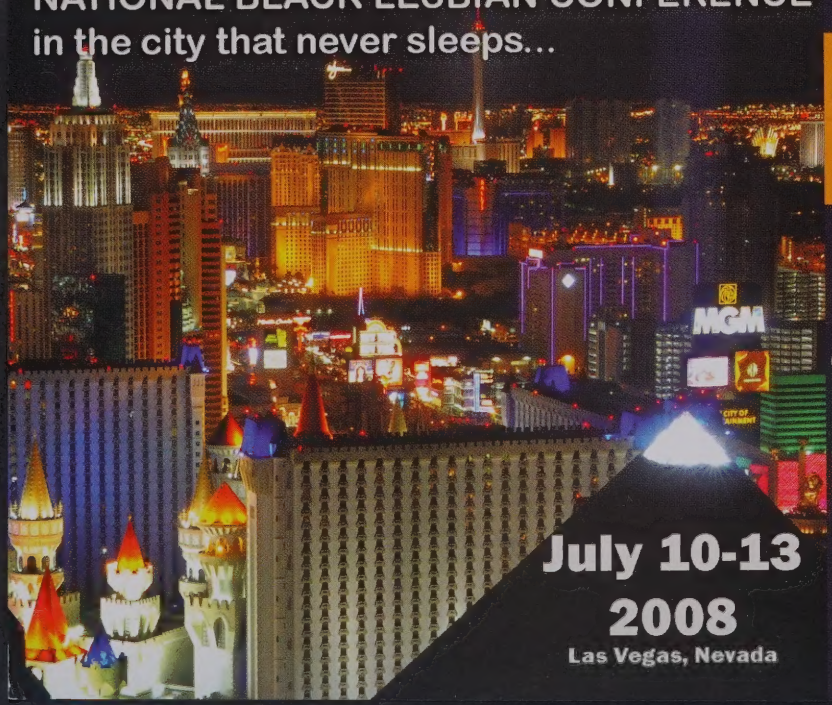
NATIONAL BLACK LESBIAN CONFERENCE
in the city that never sleeps...



July 10-13
2008
Las Vegas, Nevada

SAVE THE DATE!

TIME TO BE RENEWED!

For more information:

zunainstitute.org
nblc@zunainstitute.org

National Black Lesbian Conference

National Black Lesbian Conference is an assembly of women, organizations and entreprenuers. It is a time to connect with national and local leaders in our community, network, and create visions for the next generation.
IT'S TIME TO BE RENEWED!

Register

Reserve your place now. Our members receive [redacted]

Check our website for the latest registration information.

Venue/Travel

All NBLC events and activities will take place at Vegas' finest hotel. Spend your days immersed in strategy, empowerment, and leadership sessions, then play the night away at the casinos, restaurants, shows, and all that Vegas offers.

Speakers

NBLC offers in-depth advice from experienced practitioners and leaders who make a difference in our community. Attend and learn how to build solutions, gain insight, and impact your local community.

ZUNA Institute

Zuna Institute's purpose for creating NBLC is to lead, develop, and advocate for black lesbians as they support their families and communities.

Zuna Institute fulfills this purpose through research and advocacy, on issues of health,education, and economic empowerment

SAVE THE DATE!

July 10-13, 2008
Las Vegas, Nevada

National Advocacy Organization
For Black Lesbians

Francine Ramsey
President

www.zunainstitute.org

4660 Natomas Blvd #120-181
Sacramento, CA 95835
(916) 419-5075
(916) 419-0738 Fax
framsey@zunainstitute.org

510 543-8111

Keynote Speakers

Dr. Marjorie Hill

Rev. Dr. Yvette Flunder

National Black Lesbian Conference

July 10-13, 2008

Time to be Renewed

Red Rock Casino, Resort & Spa
11011 W. Charleston Blvd.
Las Vegas, Nevada 89135

Call 866-767-7773 for special hotel rates

Conference Registration includes all sessions, banquet, Sunday Brunch, and entertainment

For more information
nblc@zunainstitute.org
www.zunainstitute.org

ZUNA Institute

Sponsor Levels and Benefits

Platinum Sponsors (Audre Lorde) — Contributors of $20,000 or more will receive:

- Exclusive event sponsor of either the Banquet, or Gospel Brunch.
- Recognized as Platinum sponsor on all press releases and media advertising.
- One free full- page four color advertisement on front inside or back cover of Program Book.
- Banner placement in the main conference area.
- Your promotional items included in program bags distributed to participants.
- Reserved seating at plenary sessions, banquet, and Sunday brunch.
- Public acknowledgement during all plenary sessions.
- Logo on all marketing materials, advertising and media, and link to your website for 12 months.
- Complimentary exhibit table.
- Registration complimentary for 6 (six) participants and passes to all VIP events.

Gold Sponsors (Pat Parker) — Contributors of $10,000 or more will receive:

- Exclusive event sponsor for either the Welcome Reception or the Literary Café.
- Recognized as a Gold sponsor on all press releases and media advertising.
- One free full-page four color advertisement on the back inside cover of the Program Book.
- Banner placement in main conference area.
- Your promotional items included in program bags distributed to participants.
- Reserved seating at plenary sessions, banquet, and Sunday brunch.
- Public acknowledgement during all plenary sessions.
- Logo on all marketing materials, advertising, media, and link to Zuna Institute's website for 12 months.
- Complimentary exhibit table.
- Registration complimentary for 4 (four) participants and passes to all VIP events.

Silver Sponsors (Wanda Alston) — Contributors of $5,000 or more will receive:

- Recognized as a Silver sponsor on all promotional materials and website.
- One free half-page four color advertisement in Program Book.
- Your promotional items included in program bags distributed to participants.
- Reserve seating at plenary sessions, banquet, and Sunday brunch.
- Public acknowledgement during all plenary sessions.
- Logo on all marketing materials, advertising, and links to website.
- Complimentary exhibit table.
- Registration complimentary for 3 (three) participants and passes to all VIP events.
-

Bronze Sponsors (Ruth Waters) — Contribution of $2,500 or more will receive:

- Recognized as a Bronze sponsor on website.
- One free half-page four color advertisement in Program Book.
- Your promotional items included in program bags distributed to participants.
- Logo on all marketing materials, advertising, and links to website
- Complimentary exhibit table.
- Registration complimentary for 2(two) participants and passes to all VIP events.

Friend of Zuna Institute (Sakia Gunn) - Contributions of $1,500 or more will receive:

- Recognized as a Friend of Zuna Institute sponsor on website.
- One free quarter-page four color advertisement in Program Book.
- Your promotional items included in program bags distributed to participants
- Registration complimentary for 1(one) participants and pass to all VIP events

Community Based Organization (N'tombe Howell) — Contributions of $500 or more will receive:

- Recognized as Community Based Organization supporter on website
- Your promotional items included in program bags distributed to participants.
- One free eighth-page four color advertisement in Program Book.
- Registration complimentary for 1(one) participant and pass to all VIP events.

ZUNA Institute

NATIONAL BLACK LESBIAN CONFERENCE
July 10-13th, 2008
Las Vegas, Nevada
Red Rock Resort and Spa

January 25th, 2008

Mary Anne Adams
Susan G. Komen
National LGBT Advisory Council
1291 Conway Rd
Decatur, GA 30030

Dear Mary Anne,

Understanding your role as a long-time Black Lesbian activist and a member of the Susan G. Komen, National LGBT Advisory Council, I would like to make you aware of Zuna Institute's upcoming National Black Lesbian Conference (NBLC). The conference will be held July 10-13th, 2008, at the Red Rock Resort and Spa, in Las Vegas, Nevada. NBLC, the only event of its kind, is the preeminent assembly of Black Lesbian activists, educators, community organizers, and health professionals. The NBLC provides attendees with opportunities to develop their skills in the areas of health and wellness, leadership, business, and policy advocacy. For the past three years, this national conference has fostered a safe environment for hundreds of same gender loving women to enhance their ability to improve their lives through education, prevention, professional networking, and the celebration of collaboration in the spirit of sisterhood.

Understanding Susan G. Komen's commitment to fighting breast cancer on behalf of all women, we would like to invite the foundation to partner with the NBLC in educating Black Lesbians about the benefits of regular breast exams, early detection and treatment. We would like to offer your organization the opportunity to sponsor NBLC at the $10,000 level. Your support will assist NBLC in the development of the health track that will focus on raising awareness, screening, and intervention. Our goal is to reduce the mortality rate of Black women due to late diagnosis and inadequate treatment.

Our last NBLC was honored to host over 323 Black Lesbians from 35 states, and 64 cities, ranging in age from 18 to 75 with the average age of 44. This year we are expecting to expand attendance by 15%., making it possible for a broader segment of our community to receive desperately needed information on breast health and prevention, from leading health professionals in the area.. We will provide scholarships to breast cancer survivors and encourage their participation in the, "Telling our Story," panel where women can share first hand their successes in living with and fighting cancer. We will also partner with the Southern Nevada Health District's Family Planning Clinics, a service provider for the Women's Health Connection (WHC) to provide screening and information on breast care and the benefits of early detection.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer diagnosis among Black women, and among women nationwide. We know that when Black women follow the same preventive measures as white women, their death rates from breast cancer are very similar. However, we also know that Black women are more likely to be diagnosed at later stages of the disease and are more likely to die resulting in disproportionate death rates.

Our Theme, "Time to Be Renewed," signifies that we must renew our commitment to the community, renew our participation in activism, renew government's responsibility to its citizens, and renew our dedication to fighting health disparities. Join us in hosting this three-day event that will include powerful workshops and seminars that focus on the social and political injustices that impact the lives of women, in particular Black Lesbians.

To learn more about NBLC sponsorship opportunities, please see the enclosed sponsorship prospectus. **Please return the enclosed sponsor form by March 15, 2008**, indicating your level of participation. This will ensure your organization exposure in all advertising materials.

Please contact me if you have any additional questions about our organization or the July conference. I can be reached at (916) 207-1037 or via email at framsey@zunainstitute.org.

Sincerely,

Francine Ramsey
Executive Director

Zuna Institute *is a national advocacy organization for Black Lesbians that brings visibility and empowerment to the Black Lesbian community. It strives to eliminate barriers that are deeply rooted in public policies that encourage homophobia, economic, educational, and health injustices, as well as other forms of social discrimination.*

Zuna Institute is a 501(c) 3 organization as determined by the Internal Revenue Service. The tax ID number is 94-3378067

ZUNA Institute

NATIONAL BLACK LESBIAN CONFERENCE
July 10-13th, 2008
Las Vegas, Nevada
Red Rock Casino Resort and Spa

Conference Sponsorship Application

Please return this form and your check to: **Zuna Institute**, 4660 Natomas Blvd #120-181, and Sacramento, CA 95835. Zuna Institute is a non-profit 501c3 organization. Tax ID # 94-3378067.

Company Name/Individual	Contact Person	Email Address
Mailing Address	City	State, Zip Code
Telephone	Mobile Phone	Website

Put an X next to your sponsorship level:

Audre Lorde		Pat Parker		Wanda Alston		Ruth Waters		Sakia Gunn		N'tombe Howell	

_____A check is enclosed for our sponsorship contribution.

_____Unfortunately, we won't be able to participate as a sponsor, but would like to support the work of Zuna Institute. Enclosed is our contribution to Zuna Institute.

Total Contribution $_____

Please return this form and your check to:

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Sacramento, CA 95835.
916 207-1037
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